

14/05/1997

Acting Malacca CM may be appointed

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said an acting Malacca Chief Minister will be appointed if Datuk Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani has to take long leave to recuperate.

The Prime Minister said Mohd Zin who was admitted to the Tawakal Hospital on Sunday after suffering a stroke was still unconscious.

"It is too early to make an appointment but we will consider making one if it appears difficult for Mohd Zin to make an early return to work...

"I have visited Mohd Zin and his condition is really serious," he said at the Parliament lobby.

Dr Mahathir had been asked whether he would appoint someone to take over from Mohd Zin as his condition was reported to be critical.

Mohd Zin suffered a stroke about 4.30am on Sunday at the Pan Pacific Hotel. He was to have attended the Umno's 51st anniversary celebrations at the Putra World Trade Centre that morning after Saturday's supreme council meeting.

In Malacca, all State Umno branches have been asked to hold a special prayer session (Yasin recital and tahlil) on Thursday night for Mohd Zin's recovery.

State Umno secretary Datuk Sahar Arpan, said besides praying for Mohd Zin, the session would also be held to commemorate the party's 51st anniversary.

"This directive has been agreed upon by the State Umno liaison committee and I hope all the 272 branches in the State will hold prayers," he said.

Several official functions, including a special interview session with Radio Three Malacca in conjunction with its Family Day celebrations, had to be cancelled.

On the Iranian earthquake that left 2,400 dead, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would send humanitarian aid to the victims.

The amount would be decided at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, he said.

"We'll send aid as usual but we have not determined the amount," he said.

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